

Midland's Non-Motorized Transportation (NMT) Plan

After over a year of work, the Midland Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee submitted a comprehensive NMT plan to the city council, and it was unanimously approved on July 27, 2009. The vision of the NMT plan is that within a 5 to 10 year time horizon, most elementary and middle school children will walk or bike to school and that Midland's citizens will increasingly walk or bike to and from their recreational and transportation destinations in the city. The plan has identified six areas necessary to achieve the vision:

- Educate all citizens about the benefits of non-motorized transport, help develop/improve the needed skills, and insure awareness of the NMT infrastructure.
- Encourage non-motorized transportation and recreation.
- Modify the current infrastructure to help create a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly city.
- Insure that motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists comply with applicable laws.
- Maintain a consistent program to measure the success, challenges, and future needs of NMT efforts.
- Increase the number of children walking and riding bikes to school.

The plan includes development of an extensive network of designated bike routes, identified by signs and pavement markings at each turn, connecting all parts of the city. Bike lanes/shared lane markings will be on Ashman & Rodd (from Nelson to downtown), Swede, Sugnet, Eastlawn, and Orchard. The combination of bike routes and bike lanes will connect all Midland schools, business areas, work sites, parks, and other key destinations. Funding for the 3-5 year implementation of the bike routes/lanes will come from prioritization of city street maintenance/construction funds, and will represent less than 1.5% of that budget over that period. National polls show majority support for increased spending on bicycle facilities, even if it means less gas taxes go to construction of new roads.

In the long term, and as funding is identified, a north side loop separated path will provide a biking/walking/in-line skating route through Stratford Woods and then parallel to the US-10 freeway to Dublin Rd. plus an extension to the City Forest.

For more information: www.midland-mi.org/government/departments/planning/Planning/planninghome.htm